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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): INSTITUT PASTEUR [FR/FR]; 28, rue du Docteur Roux, F-75015 Paris (FR).			
(72) Inventors; and		Published ...	
(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): COLE, Stewart [GB/FR]; 23 bis, rue Cécile Dinant, F-92140 Clamart (FR). BUCHRIESER-BROSCH, Roland [AT/FR]; 7 F, boulevard Jourdan, F-75014 Paris (FR). GORDON, Stephen [IE/FR]; 82, rue Dutot, F-75015 Paris (FR). BILLAULT, Alain [FR/FR]; 45, avenue du Château, F-77680 Roissy-en-Brie (FR).		With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.	
(74) Agents: MARTIN, Jean-Jacques et al.; Cabinet Regimbeau, 26, avenue Kléber, F-75116 Paris (FR).		(88) Date of publication of the international search report: 9 December 1999 (09.12.99)	

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(57) Abstract

The present invention is directed to a method for isolating a polynucleotide of interest that is present or is expressed in a genome of a first mycobacterium strain and that is absent or altered in a genome of a second mycobacterium strain which is different from the first mycobacterium strain using a bacterial artificial chromosome (BAC) vector. The invention further relates to a polynucleotide isolated by this method and recombinant BAC vector used in this method. In addition the present invention comprises method and kit for detecting the presence of a mycobacteria in a biological sample.